

## CLAIMS

Sub B 1. A load bearing structural element extruded from a thermoplastic plastics material which is compounded so that the element has a flexural modulus of 4000 MPa or above.

2. An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a flexural modulus of 5500 MPa or above.

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A3 } 3. An element as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which has a ratio of flexural modulus (in Megapascals) to density (in kg/m<sup>3</sup>) of at least 2.5:1.

15 SbCC<sup>3</sup> 4. An element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ratio is at least 4.2:1.

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20 5. An element as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

25 6. An element as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene,  
polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

Sub CC3/17. An element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is bi-axially oriented polypropylene.

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AC } 8. An element as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the thermoplastic plastics material is a  
recycled material.

35 <sup>out</sup> A7 } 9. An element as claimed in any preceding claim which contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing

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cont } material.

Subcc2 } 10. An element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the glass fibres have a length of at least 5mm.

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11. An element as claimed in claim 10, wherein the glass fibres have a length of 8-12mm.

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A9 } 10 12. An element as claimed in claim 9, 10 or 11, wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface thereof.

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A9 } 15 13. An element as claimed in any preceding claim, which has compounded with the thermoplastic plastics material one or more substances selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and friction increasers.

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A9 } 20 14. An element as claimed in any preceding claim which has one or more substances selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and friction increasers present in an outer layer which has a thickness of up to 1mm.

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A10 } 25 15. An element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastic plastics material containing said substance(s) and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said element.

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A12 } 30 16. An element as claimed in any preceding claim, which has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.

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A13 } 35 17. An element as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the compounded thermoplastic plastics material contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in

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amounts of / from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt%  
respectively.

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